

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PP

SUBJECT: GPNG REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

REF: (A) PORT MORESBY 281, (B) PORT MORESBY 268,
(C) PORT MORESBY 261, (D) MANILA 4487

1. DEPARTMENT AND AID HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED GPNG
REQUEST FOR US DOLLARS 150,000 GRANT FOR TECHNICAL ASSIS-
TANCE FINANCE US NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIFICATION COOPERATIVE
ASSOCIATION (NRECA) STUDIES OF PROPOSED RURAL ELECTRIFI-
CATION PROJECTS. WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO GOALS GPNG HOPES TO
ACHIEVE BY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION. HOWEVER, WE ARE UNABLE
TO OFFER AN AFFIRMATIVE REPLY TO THIS REQUEST. THEREFORE
WE SUGGEST THAT GPNG MAY WISH TO SEEK FUNDS FOR PROPOSED
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STUDIES FROM APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITU-

TIONS SUCH AS IBRD OR ADB. WE WOULD SUPPORT REQUESTS TO THESE INSTITUTIONS TO EXTENT APPROPRIATE. IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE US DOES NOT CONTROL THESE INSTITUTIONS AND OUR SUPPORT DOES NOT GUARANTEE APPROVAL OF ANY SPECIFIC PROJECT.

2. PNG HAS NO BILATERAL FUNDS ALLOCATED IN FY 76 AID PROGRAM AND NO FUNDS ARE REQUESTED IN THE FY 77 BUDGET.

WE WOULD ANTICIPATE CONSIDERABLE CONGRESSIONAL RESISTANCE TO INCLUSION OF PNG IN THE BILATERAL AID PROGRAM. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT OUR "LOW PROFILE" POLICY TOWARD PNG IS BEST SERVED AT THE PRESENT TIME BY CONTINUING TO ENCOURAGE PNG TO LOOK TO AUSTRALIA AS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF BILATERAL AID, WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, NEW ZEALAND, AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES AS SECONDARY DONORS.

3. OUR INABILITY TO MEET THIS REQUEST SHOULD NOT, RPT NOT BE INTERPRETED AS "LACK OF INTEREST" OR EVIDENCE OF AN UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARD PNG. THE US HAS MADE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, FOR PROGRAMS IN PNG AS WELL AS CONTRIBUTIONS TO MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE IBRD, ADB AND SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION WHICH HAVE PROGRAMS INVOLVING PNG.

4. WE REMAIN READY TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROJECTS BY VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. WE WOULD NOTE THAT AID, THROUGH ITS REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (RED) IN BANGKOK, MAY BE ABLE TO OFFER ASSISTANCE TO GPNG TO EXPLORE PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL PROGRAMS SUCH AS TRAINING IN REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

5. FYI. DURING COLOMBO PLAN CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING LAST DECEMBER AT COLOMBO, PNG DELEGATE WHO IS ALSO AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA APPROACHED MEMBER OF US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DELEGATION CONCERNING POSSIBLE US ASSISTANCE THROUGH REGIONAL PROGRAMS. PNG DELEGATE INDICATED INTEREST IN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN SOUTHEAS; ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION (SEAMEO). IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT SINCE AUSTRALIA IS SEAMEO ASSOCIATE MEMBER AUSTRALIA MIGHT BE ASKED TO APPROACH SEAMEO IN THIS MATTER. MEMBER OF AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION SEEMED RECEPTIVE TO THIS SUGGESTION. KISSINGER

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